

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

DRAFT

SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

In Attendance: Rhylin Baillie, MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Jen Mezei, Hark Sandhu, Zena Kwan, Sandra Mankoo, Jennifer Duinkerke, Kirsten Graham, Annie Hobson, Siva Ramesh, Michelle Lee, Wendell Hiltz (principal).

Note: ~ 9 additional, non-executive members attended.

Regrets: Patricia Fula, Tammy Inglis, Cheryl Tong

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

PAC BUSINESS – Rhylin Bailie Chairperson

- Handouts provided at this meeting: meeting agenda, financial summary, minutes from June AGM, summary of how surplus will be spent as approved at June AGM
- Introductions were made of the PAC executive. We are grateful for returning members and excited about new members!
- Approval of June AGM (2011/2012) minutes – Siva Ramesh firsts, Rhylin Bailie seconds, minutes approved.
- Key changes to this year's **budget**
 - Added a bit more money to the Spirit Day budget
 - Increased Safe School committee budget to allow for a new mentorship program to go ahead if possible, plus three speakers
 - Increased the grounds improvement budget from \$500 to \$1000 as Mme. Gayton has planned environmental initiatives this year
 - We will email out a copy of the budget on request, but we do not post it on the website as we need to keep it confidential

PAC surplus

- We have a significant surplus representing 2 years of fundraising (about \$40,000). After careful consideration, the PAC decided to spend it on IT upgrades.

- We inventoried the school IT situation and agreed to spend the surplus in the following manner:
 - \$26,500 towards buying 30 iPads and a projector system to be used in library for educational purposes
 - \$6000 to classrooms (about \$12/kid)
 - \$4000 to teachers' wishlist. Note: at the end of 2011/2012 year the usual wishlist requests came in from the teachers – the requests were for relatively small value items and this could be due to the fact that there are already many extras in the classrooms (i.e. front row sound systems) – the PAC is to be congratulated for its fundraising efforts over the years that have resulted in the teachers having received all of their big-ticket wish items
- Of the \$40,000 surplus, \$36,500 is 'spent' leaving about \$4,500 thousand surplus still. We have agreed not to earmark this and keep it open so that if something interesting comes up we have the ability to respond and support if needed.

Donations/IT upgrade plans

- The traditional request for donations at beginning of the year has historically gone to the classrooms. The gradual trickling in of donation money often means that money doesn't get to classrooms until the new year.
- This year, we decided to put PAC raised money (not donation money) to the classrooms so that teachers can receive it earlier.
- Donations will go to a capital expenditure. The decision was made to refurbish the computer lab with this year's donations. We need about \$12,500 to do this!
- The order for the iPads has been received by the district IT dept. and should be finalized by end of this week. Shipping time – about 1-2 weeks to arrive. Will need about 1 week to configure. Best case scenario. Could be longer.
- New hardware/software must be installed by District and must conform to the standards of this District; the District is working with us.
- The District does get a discount through APPLE Canada, get an educator discount. Apple apparently doesn't generally do discounts; however educators do get a discount. It is different for the warranties though.
- Note: if we are buying something on behalf of school – school makes purchase so they don't pay HST.
- Once we know where donations are we will look at the PC lab goal and see if PAC wants to put in extra and get the order in because it will take a while to get the new PCs.
- Note: donors get a tax receipt but Seaforth PAC is not an official "charity". If anyone wants to take on a business partnership project – where the objective is to do significant fundraising – they are very welcome to do so. Seaforth has a very good reputation as a good academic institution and so while we are not in great need, we might have businesses that would welcome a partnership.
- We welcome new ideas and new volunteers. Idea – ask for corporate sponsors for our events; could ask in the donation letter at beginning of year.

Special interest groups (Grade 7 Grad, Grade 7 Camping, Grade 7 French Trip)

- A decision was made last year to allow these groups to do 2 (not just 1) fundraiser. This was to allow the groups to raise additional funds on the off chance that there is job action again and teachers can't participate, which results in extra costs because the groups need more insurance, have to hire consultants, don't get district grants, etc.
- Groups will be allowed to do one daytime fundraiser (hot lunch, entertainment books, selling poinsettias, etc.) and one evening fundraiser (movie night, magic night, pub night – anything that doesn't conflict with school or PAC calendar).
- Note: Grade 7 committee has a \$1500 surplus. The committee has decided to leave a \$500 float for this year's grad and return the balance to PAC as the PAC kindly provided extra funds for the camping trip.

Seaforth 2012/2013 Events & Activities

- We weren't able to book all the events we wanted to as we couldn't get final teacher confirmation. Kindness Month is planned, but tentative, we will confirm as soon as possible. We need to work together with teachers to build a calendar that takes into account everyone's needs.
- Crosswalk safety – there are now 4 parent volunteers headed up by Anne D. Anne will co-ordinate grade 6 and 7 students but she can't be there every day. Some suggestions to address traffic problems: write a letter to put on windshields (signed by the school?). One major problem is parents that park in the pick up and drop off zone. Other ideas – have the police liaison officer out at Jensen, a campaign with signs first week of school, target kids with traffic safety message and that will target parents. Wendell will raise this issue at the next assembly.
- First book fair (French language) – Birdie Chan handled this – thanks to her! She noted that the Scholastic selection was not as good as past years; this may be due to a re-branding issue with the company. We made half the profits compared to last year. English language book fair is scheduled for 2013 to coincide with the student-led conferences in January. Another book fair in Dec. is an idea – we did Usborne last year. Would need to partner this Dec. book fair with an event that brings families to the school – perhaps could partner it with the sing-a-long.
- Hot lunch forms went out today – everything is online this year
- Popcorn Fridays still going on
- Photo night – Siva Ramesh organizing. The photos are always great. This is a great volunteer opportunity, super easy.
- Cheryl Tong will head up Wacky Wednesdays (formerly Fun Fridays).
- Sports Day – Hark Sandhu and Jen Mezei will co-ordinate again this year.
- Parent social – in the past we have had a parent social/silent auction – which raised \$10,000/12,000, but the profits are dwindling. A family night is desired,

no alcohol option – shake it up. We could theme the family social around kindness month with a community building element. Some ideas for this event are: hoe down, cultural potluck, art work display showcase night. This event is wide open. For the potluck we could have food, talent, dress - all ethnic themed; for the talent show – we would need to decide who gets to perform – auditions? Other ideas: Parent pub night – pub used in past – Hop and Vine – 50-50 draw. Can be very successful – need someone to co-ordinate.

- Saleema Noon talk – sexual health educator will be coming to Seaforth in April. It will be Saleema and not her colleague. There will be a meeting between Saleema and parents prior to her talking to the kids; parents are encouraged to come to this meeting to ask questions, express concerns prior to talk with Kids.
- Playground committee – our playground is old and will eventually need to be replaced. If we lose a piece we lose the whole thing as the District will not repair. We may need to explore a partnership with Corporation to help raise money for this. Things to be done: determine what needs to be replaced, in what order, how much, etc. Sophia Chong will co-ordinate this
- Parent speakers – money earmarked for this wasn't used last year – we can open talks to district. We welcome someone to come forward to organize these talks and find speakers and presenters for PAC meetings. One area that we wanted to have a presentation on is kids that struggle academically and do not qualify for District resources yet still need help – what can parents do. [ACTION ITEM \(Wendell\) - to see if District can still come and give this talk.](#)

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE- MaryAnn Giardini

- This committee focuses on citizenship, compassion, kindness, awareness of community, education on bullying issues
- We are having our first meeting on Oct. 10 to brainstorm
- Discussions over the summer resulted in lots of ideas:
 - Peer mediator program - works at other schools, works on an informal basis. We have booked it for 1 session and asked the District to consider us for 2 sessions. Up to 15 kids can go per session but we need a staff member sponsor to go with kids. Don't know date yet.
 - Girl talk program – discusses issues around bullying, self-image – specific to girls – grade 5, 6, 7. Could occur at lunch or after school or in evening. 4 hour program – occurs on a volunteer basis. Forest Grove ran it in 2010 – 2 sessions of 2 hours each. Central high school did this. Addresses important issues such as: girl dynamics are often more complicated than boys – by the time it reaches the school administration it has gone on for a long time and harder to fix. Talking about safety and respect online. Question: Can parents go too? Answer: there may be a more open discussion among kids without parents; however, we could have one session with parents + kids, one with kids only.
 - RespectEd (Red Cross) – different high schools have done this as well – Burnaby Central and North do it – must be co-ordinated through principal. Kids talking to kids. Free program.

- We are also looking at primary kid-targeted material – magician for all grades last year was successful. This year we are looking at another entertainer that does a bullying program recommended to us. Can ask staff if we can do that.
- Note: feedback from staff on last year's activities was that there were too many things last year – they support Kindness month but with fewer things during the month.
- Most successful was artwork project. This year we should consider – posters, a kindness quilt, art on chain link fence around school, tiles on school walls outside, etc.

Principal's REPORT - Wendell Hiltz

- September is a very busy month
- New secretary this year; she is getting up to speed
- 488 students (308 English enrolment apprx.) almost exactly what we projected. 2 straight K English classes (21, 20 students); French K (22 students).
- New staff members – see newsletter
- Much more normal start to the school year; happy about this
- Staff had pro-d day last Thursday – Adrian Gear did power writing workshop and she was fantastic. The reason that the Pro-D day was on Thursday was that we had to accommodate this presenter's schedule. Classrooms are already benefiting from the delivery of this program. Adrian Gear was a different approach to teaching writing and reading; it makes it more fun.
- Staff has settled in; intake meetings had high participation – valuable for teachers – good information. Thank you to parents for your participation
- Photo day Oct. 1. There will be a second photo day
- Verification forms coming in not ready to distribute material by email yet. Hopefully ready by Oct.
- New payment method for fees is online - young people's concerts – new way to pay – thanks to those who are paying that way; there is less money changing hands in the school and this is less risky. We can sort the online data by classroom to determine who has paid and who has not.
- We will look into adding the PAC donation to online payment program for 2013/2014. As per accounting at Board office – we can add anything we want, but have to be able to manage all the items added.

DPAC REPORT – MaryAnn Giardini/Jen Mezei

- Provides feedback from district to the local PAC on new initiatives
- DPAC is a liaison between PAC and the District
- Ministry initiatives get vetted at DPAC
- New BC education plan – revamping the way curriculum is being framed – different ways – 21st century learning – in the process of getting feedback from parents – what skills do you think kids need to be successful in this generation – district is looking for 15 parents to provide feedback. Will look at grad

requirements, what BC education plan is, what framework is, prescribed learning objectives per subject. For some grades there are 150 learning outcomes. What are the core competencies that we are trying to teach our kids – 1) broader – synthesizing information, 2) manipulation of information, etc. Asking for parents' questions and feedback – contact Jen if you are interested.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jennifer Duinkerke & Hark Sandhu

- A copy of this report is available on request; budget highlights were noted above

SPIRIT DAY – Pablo Su & Gail Su

- The PAC members were asked what they thought of Spirit Day focussing on one topic and having sessions targeted to that theme?
- Ideas: Science, sports, crafts, jobs, environmental, confidence builders, dance/arts
- We can ask new speakers to come forward with that focus, and ask existing speakers to modify their presentations to be in line with the theme
- The group favoured Environment as the theme
- Monday April 22 is Earth Day– could do Spirit day on that day...
- Note: Madame Gayton has environmental initiatives already planned.

NEW BUSINESS

- Need CPF rep – 2 came forward at this meeting – thanks to Dawn Reynolds and Cynthia Ghanason! We need a CPF chapter for Burnaby – can apply for grants. **ACTION ITEM (Jen Mezei) – raise the issue of forming a new Burnaby CPF chapter at the next DPAC meeting – to help recruit people from other schools as well.** CPF reps perform the important role of giving PAC feedback regarding opportunities for our French students
- Webmaster – volunteer Dawn Reynolds came forward – thank you!
- Emergency preparedness – Lynne Vidler came forward to head this committee
- Playground committee – Sophia Chong came forward to head this committee
- School theft & increasing security – there have been thefts at Burnaby schools recently (not Seaforth though). Thus Seaforth is enacting new security measures – the far door by Ms. Bastone's room won't be unlocked in morning (as it is so far away from the office and areas where people frequent). Once 9am comes around the door will open. As well, Madame Richter's and Boulanger's doors may soon be locked in morning to prevent people from entering the school unbeknownst to others in different areas of the school in the early morning. There have been conversations with kids to make sure they are keeping themselves and their belongings safe.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm